

**ABERCARN
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL**



ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR
FOR THE YEAR 1972

ABERCARN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

COUNCILLORS :

Chairman	...	...	...	Councillor A. P. Griffiths
Vice-Chairman	...	...	...	Councillor P. J. James
Councillor	B. Cole			„ W. J. Cross, J.P.
„	D. H. Padfield			„ J. Edwards, B.A.
„	J. C. Pearce			„ E. H. Williams, J.P.
„	W. H. Davies			„ W. C. H. Ford
„	B. Evans			„ L. S. Gulliford
„	E. N. Fletcher			„ F. Knight
„	O. J. Thorne			„ F. G. Perkins
„	H. B. Connolly			„ R. J. Robson

OFFICERS :

Clerk & Solicitor	...	...	...	F. Mervyn Davies
Treasurer & Chief Financial Officer	...	...	...	T. H. Dixon
Engineer & Surveyor	...	...	...	C. C. Hardwick
Housing Engineer	...	...	...	T. J. Laramy
Medical Officer of Health	...	...	...	Dr. K. E. Howells
Chief Public Health Officer	...	...	...	Lloyd G. Hale

To the Chairman and Members of the Council,

It gives me great pleasure to present the Annual Report for 1972 for your consideration, although this year it is a pleasure tinged with regret, in that this will be not only the last report presented to Abercarn Urban District Council, but also the last report of a Medical Officer of Health, for in April, 1974 both Abercarn Urban District Council and the post of Medical Officer of Health will cease to exist.

During the year there were 295 live births and 214 deaths, giving a natural increase of 81, although the estimated mid year population shows a fall of 50 compared with last year.

The crude birth rate for the Area was 16 per 1,000 population, with an adjusted rate of 16.8 per 1,000; this compares with the national average of 14.8 per 1,000. There were 10 illegitimate births in the Area, 3% of the total births, the national average being 9%, and that for the County of Monmouth 7%. There were 8 still births, giving a rate of 26 per 1,000 total live and still births, which shows a rise compared with last year, and is over twice the national average. The infant mortality rate of 17 per 1,000 live births is the same as that for England and Wales, that for the County also being 17.

The crude death rate for the Area per 1,000 population was 11.6 with an adjusted rate of 13.7 per 1,000 compared with a national average of 12.1 per 1,000, and a rate of 13.1 per 1,000 for the County of Monmouth. Diseases of the heart and circulation again gave rise to the largest number of deaths, 93 in all, 69 of these being due to coronary disease. There were 43 deaths from cancer, 27 males and 16 females, 11 of the male deaths were due to cancer of the lung.

The chief causes of death are summarised as follows :

			Total deaths	Percentage of total deaths
	M.	F.		
Heart and circulatory diseases	47	48	95	44.39
Malignant diseases	27	16	43	20.09
Cerebro Vascular Accidents	16	13	29	13.55
Respiratory diseases	17	9	26	12.15
Motor Vehicle and other accidents	2	4	6	2.80
All other causes	11	4	15	7.01

Area of Abercarn Urban District Council	9,543
Population	18,410
Inhabited houses	6,414
Number of houses owned by Council ...	1,968
Rateable Value 1st April, 1971	£391,841
1st April, 1972	£391,531
1st April, 1973	£1,037,540
Product of Penny Rate 1970/71	£1,500.0.0.
1971/72	£3,600.0.0.
1972/73	£9,700.0.0.

VITAL STATISTICS

BIRTHS

	1970	1971	1972
Males	149	165	140
Females	145	143	155
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	294	308	295
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Birth rate of 1,000 of the Population ...			16.8

STILLBIRTHS

	1970	1971	1972
Stillbirth rate of 1,000 of live and still births	7	16	26

DEATHS

	1970	1971	1972
Males	139	101	120
Females	75	91	94
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	214	192	214
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TO UNDERLINGS:

"You cannot all be masters."

Othello.

VITAL STATISTICS—1972

	Abercarn	Mon. County Council	England and Wales
Live Births	295	5,396	725,405
Live birth rate per 1,000 of population	16.8	15.8	14.8
Stillbirths	8	65	8,794
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 live and still births	26	12	12
Infant deaths	5	90	12,494
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births—total ...	17	17	17
Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births— legitimate	18	17	17
Neo Natal (first four weeks)	7	10	12
Death rate per 1,000 of population	13.7	13.1	12.1
Number of deaths	214	4,217	591,907
Mid year population (estimated)	18,410	351,660	49,028,900

" I was adored once too."

Twelfth Night.

It is with a tinge of regret that I write this, my last report for Abercarn Urban District Council. April 1974 will soon come, and Abercarn Urban District Council will become history. Eighty years will have passed, from 1894 to 1974, and the "old order changeth, yielding forth anew".

It therefore occurred to me to make a serious attempt to trace the Area's statistical history, not only of better living standards, brought about over these eighty years, but also of the increased life expectancy. Just think that in 1985 eight million people in this country will be over 65 years of age.

In tracing this statistical history I was astounded by the number of deaths of infants under the age of one, deaths from diseases that today, to many, are only names in a medical book.

However satisfactory today's statistics are, we cannot afford to be smug or self-satisfied. We must be ever vigilant, especially with the speeding up of methods of travel between countries. People are now transported thousands of miles in a day, bringing closer to this country such dreaded diseases as smallpox, typhoid and cholera.

I intend concentrating on the deaths of children under the age of one, during the first period of the Abercarn Council, 1894 to 1910. Thus we have :

Year	Number of infant deaths under one year.
1899	116
1903	88
1908	60

It would seem that the authorities at that time, and by authorities I mean officials of the County Council, the Ministry and Abercarn Council were more concerned with lodging house accommodation on offer to the miners sinking shafts at Crumlin in 1907. An enquiry was held into this accommodation, and all the officials involved visited the lodging houses registered at that time.

While all this was going on children were dying regularly of typhoid, especially in Newbridge, while others died from whooping cough, scarlet fever, diphtheria and smallpox.

" A favourite has no friends."

Grey.

Year	Population
1895	12,355
1901	12,607
1907	14,057
1911	16,445
1920	20,058

In 1920 the infantile mortality rate rose to 84 per 1,000, while in 1915, 643 babies were born, 73 dying before reaching the age of one, one in every nine.

During all this time the population continued to grow, not so much as a result of the invasion of males looking for work, as by the astronomical number of births, as follows:

Year	Number of births
1895	543
1901	563
1907	468
1908	468
1915	643
1920	667

The people lived in dark, damp, defective houses, which were badly overcrowded, the occupancy rate being of the order of 6.5 persons per house. Today the rate is down to 2.4.

The roads were not made up, there were no sewers, no electric lights, although the windows were very, very small, and no proper water supply. Such water supplies as were available were from streams and land springs. These supplies were often polluted, as was the milk and also the food, especially the meat.

In 1915 there were nine slaughterhouses in the Area, yet the Inspector of Nuisances at that time did not condemn any meat. Undoubtedly, people were eating contaminated meat and very probably suffered with tuberculosis as a result.

In spite of this very many people can remember this era, fondly recalling it as the golden age, almost willing to

*" call back yesterday;
bid time return "*,

but, as Virgil said,

*" meanwhile time is flying
never to return "*.

These people were engaged in the sinking of the mines, and the opening of coal faces, all the time living in spartan conditions. I am given to understand that they paid sixpence per night for a bed in a lodging house, and fourpence for the privilege of sitting on the floor, leaning against the wall.

Although the working classes, what a horrible phrase, were being exploited, a bloodless revolution was beginning. Hundreds, nay thousands, of these most hardy of men were burnt out physically before their time. The cemeteries in the valleys are packed with men buried before their time, full of pneumoconiosis. Their sons followed them into the mines, but with the iron resolve that their sons would never follow them. Hence the fervent urgency of these new sons to study in the local grammar school, providing themselves with an escape route to other careers.

Better houses were being built, more schools were coming into being, education was a must. The "old order was changing, yielding forth anew". Water was laid on to cottages; roads were improved; electric and gas lighting became commonplace. Milk was pasteurised, cattle were tuberculin tested; food was being continually examined, until, today, all cows, pigs and sheep, yes, every one, is inspected for fitness for human consumption.

Birth control and family planning have now become the rule rather than the exception, and ante and post natal attendances at the County Council Clinics have become a must.

New schools have been built at Trinant, Panside and Abercarn, while a school has been set down in Cwmcarn. Such are the surroundings to each of these seats of learning, that I cannot envisage "schoolboys creeping, like snails, unwillingly, to school".

When one stops and thinks, it is today and tomorrow that are the golden days. You, Mr. Chairman, and your Committees, not forgetting the very many Councillors who have served the Council in the past to the best of their ability, can hold your head high on the passing of Abercarn Urban District Council.

If the Area is a better place to live in, to work in, I am glad to have played a small part in its betterment.

*"We will rise the curtain,
And show you the picture."*

Twelfth Night.

I suppose I am, or can be regarded as, an elusive person. I have no permanent office, it is true, I have offices in very many places; at the Council Offices, both at Abercarn and Mynyddislwyn, at Newbridge Area Health Office, and at many other Monmouthshire County Council offices, where I spend my working life.

I, and my learned colleagues before me, feel that our efforts towards the well-being of mankind are being rewarded. In 1909, 1910 and 1911, very many children in the Newbridge area died of typhoid fever. Today, typhoid fever is almost unheard of, and if outbreaks do occur no effort, time, or money is spared in quelling them.

The last, and most serious, outbreak occurring in this country was in Aberdeen, in 1963. Almost 540 patients were in hospital, for periods of approximately three weeks, at a cost of £75 per patient. Of course, the patients did not pay a penny, we have virtually a free service, The National Health Service, which we tend to decry. But, with all its imperfections, it cannot be bettered throughout the world, indeed, it is the envy of less happy countries.

In 1968 a family from Newbridge went on holiday to Spain, for two weeks. After the first week the girl of the family went down with food poisoning. This little girl was in hospital for only five days, costing her parents fifty pounds, or ten pounds per day, the parents having to return home bringing the little girl with them.

My department was notified, and kept this patient under continual surveillance for five long months, she being a persistent carrier of the germ. She was kept from school, and for four months the Monmouthshire County Council, Education Department, sent a teacher to the patient's home on several half days a week so that the child did not fall behind in her education.

We are all guilty, from time to time, of decrying this system. Of course, it is not perfect, of course, it can be improved, but it is less costly than the Spanish system.

This child was eventually cured and sent back to school with no ill effects, the cost to her parents being a couple of prescription charges.

Again, recently, it has been brought to my notice that a little baby of five weeks was suffering with food poisoning. Difficulty was experienced in dealing with this patient because of his tender years, but I am pleased to report that he is now in good health. Although his mother is a confirmed carrier, she, in turn, will be taken care of, she will also have a clean bill of health.

INFANTILE MORTALITY

NUMBER OF DEATHS UNDER ONE YEAR

				1970	1971	1972
Boys	...	...	...	3	4	4
Girls	...	...	...	5	1	1
				—	—	—
				8	5	5
				—	—	—

Infantile Mortality Rate: 17

CAUSES OF INFANT DEATHS AT VARIOUS AGES

					0 to 4 weeks	4 weeks to one year
ALL CAUSES	...	...	...	...	2	3
Measles	...	...	...	...	—	—
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	—	—
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	—	—
Influenza	...	...	...	...	—	—
Cerebral Spinal Fever			...	...	—	—
Cancer (Malignant Disease)	...		...	...	—	—
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Tuberculosis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other Respiratory Diseases	...		...	...	—	—
Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases					—	1
Congenital Anomalies		...	...		1	—
Premature Births	...	...	...	...	—	—
Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	...				—	—
Digestive Diseases	...	...	...	...	—	—
Other Endocrine, etc., Diseases	...				—	1
Other Diseases of Nervous System, etc.					—	—
Violence	...	...	...	...	—	—
Benign and Unspecified Neoplasms	...				—	—
Meningococcal Infection	...		...	...	—	1
Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality					1	—
					—	—
					2	3

SELF-EMPLOYED :

*“ It is not doing the things you want to do,
But liking the things you have to do that
makes life blessed.”*

Goethe.

ACUTE RESPIRATORY DISEASES—DEATHS

			1970	1971	1972
Bronchitis	...	...	18	9	12
Pneumonia	...	...	6	11	10
Other Forms	...	...	3	3	4
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			27	23	26
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

CANCER DEATHS

			1970	1971	1972
Males	...	...	21	23	27
Females	...	...	12	21	16
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			33	44	43
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The principal Notifiable Diseases are Smallpox, Typhoid, Typhus, Measles, Scarlet Fever, Diphtheria, Whooping Cough Puerperal Fever, Ophthalmia Neonatorum and Continued Fever.

There were no deaths from the Principal Notifiable Diseases during 1972.

CAUSES OF DEATH, 1972

1971			1972	
M.	F.		M.	F.
101	91	ALL CAUSES	120	94
		Enteritis and other Diarrhoeal Diseases	1	—
		Meningococcal Infection	1	—
		Malignant Neoplasm, Oesophagus ...	2	—
		Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach ...	5	3
		Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine ...	1	—
		Malignant Neoplasm, Lung, Bronchus	11	—
		Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	—	5
		Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	—	1
		Malignant Neoplasm, Prostate ...	2	—
		Leukaemia	1	—
		Other Malignant Neoplasms	5	7
		Other Endocrine, etc., Diseases ...	1	—
		Mental Disorders	1	—
		Meningitis	1	—
		Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease ...	1	1
		Hypertensive Disease	1	2
		Ischaemic Heart Disease	40	29
		Other Forms of Heart Disease ...	3	12
		Cerebrovascular Disease	16	13
		Other Diseases of Circulatory System	2	4
		Pneumonia	6	4
		Bronchitis and Emphysema	8	4
		Other Diseases of Respiratory System	3	1
		Peptic Ulcer	1	—
		Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia ...	—	1
		Cirrhosis of Liver	1	—
		Other Diseases of Digestive System ...	2	—
		Other Diseases, Genito-Urinary System	—	1
		Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System ...	1	—
		Congenital Anomalies	—	2
		Other Causes of Perinatal Mortality ...	1	—
		Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	—
		All Other Accidents	1	4

ANALYSIS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES IN AGE GROUPS

Diseases.	Age Unknown												Total
	Under 1	1—2	2—3	3—4	4—5	5—10	10—15	15—20	20—35	35—45	45—65	65 plus	
Tuberculosis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	—	2
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	2
Diphtheria	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Measles	3	—	1	1	2	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	9
Erysipelas	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Dysentery	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Infective Hepatitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	2
Food poisoning	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	4	1	—	7
Acute Meningitis	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total	3	—	2	2	3	2	1	—	1	5	3	—	22

Total number of infectious diseases in age groups: 22

*"The soul's dark cottage, battered and decayed,
Let in new light thro' chinks that time has made.
Stronger by weakness, wiser men become,
As they draw near to their eternal home."*

Edmund Waller.

A SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC REVOLUTION

If one reflects, stops, pauses and thinks, we have witnessed a social and economic revolution in the last ten years, in this Urban Area. Over this period we have seen the taking up of whole sections of railway line, the closing of railway stations and freight depots, and the closing of collieries.

Whatever dismal "jimmies" thought, the Council did not allow these traumatic events to paralise their thinking.

The canal, that open, foul smelling depository of everyone's filth, was drained and slowly turned into a road, thus allowing traffic to pass quickly through the area without a hitch.

Remember the stench from the burning colliery waste, near the old colliery offices, at the new Prince of Wales Industrial Site. Remember the graders at work levelling acres of land, land reclaimed, and laid out; paths, trees and factories followed in the wake of each other with bewildering rapidity.

This Industrial Estate was the Council's highest possible accolade, and became the envy of other authorities. Land lost forever had been reclaimed for future use. This achievement stands as one of our greatest during the ten years under review.

Someone once said "they have stopped making land", not in the Abercarn Urban Area, the Land Reclamation Committee are to be highly praised for their remarkable effort and enterprise.

It is of interest that one in six of the potential labour force available is already working in the area; there are over 2,000 people working in factories within the District.

Figures show that there are 1,440 children under four years of age in the area, with a further 3,085 under the age of 14. The table below sets out the number of children in the area, in age groups, for your information.

Number	Age Groups
1,440	0 to 4
1,560	5 to 9
1,525	10 to 14
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4,525	—
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Looking at the population figures at the other end of the scale we have:

Number	Age Groups
5	95 and over
15	90 to 95
80	85 to 90
190	80 to 85
410	75 to 79
650	70 to 74
935	65 to 69
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2,285	—
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Subtracting both the too young and the aged we are left with a potential 11,695 people available for work.

Of course, this figure must be examined a little further, as it does not take into account people already employed in offices, shops and warehouses within the Area, or those employed as teachers or in the police force, not to mention indoor and outdoor personnel working for the Council itself.

Additionally, it does not, and cannot take into account persons working immediately outside the boundaries of the District, in the factories in the Mynyddislwyn Area, and the Abertillery Area in the factories at Crumlin.

And so the bloodless, the silent, revolution goes on. Work is a social need, the money earned an economic necessity. In a modern society one breadwinner is insufficient, two a must, to pay the ever increasing rents, rates or mortgages, Life is hard, is dear, is, however, exciting. The young can regard themselves as fortunate to be born into a modern society, alive, throbbing with restless energy to succeed, while the aged can say that the sixth age

*" Shifts into the lean, and
slippered pantaloon,
With spectacles on nose and
pouch on side "*

with a certain amount of truth.

One needs to have little imagination to see, in retrospect, that miracles have been performed since the Council's birth in 1894. Senior citizens will remember the phrase "the workhouse", recalling the ones at St. Woolos, Newport and St. James, Tredegar. Only Dickens could adequately describe such utterly savage and degrading conditions.

We have marched a long, long way from that indecent, and to human beings inhuman time, when a person could die in the workhouse and be buried in a paupers' grave. Today we are surrounded by housing for the aged, at the Westend, Abercarn, at Edwardsville, Cwmcarn, at Central Avenue, Pantside, and also Tir-y-pwll Avenue, Pantside. The Senior Citizens' Home at Trinant is the latest "jewel, set in almost a silver sea". The latest piece of superb accommodation for the aged.

All this, of course, has to be paid for, but I am sure that all will agree that it is money well spent and more than worthwhile.

As we wander down through the ages we can see in the Council's records the ever growing number of proud owner/occupiers within the Area. These records have become very important, and are increasing in volume year by year.

Since 1971 the Council has increased its own housing stock, until, today, it has over 2,000 housing units of all types. Out of a total of well over 6,000 units, the Council owned, in 1971, a total of 1,910, while owner/occupiers held 3,365, leaving only 750 in the ownership of private landlords, such as the National Coal Board and the Llanover Estate. I have no doubt that this figure of 750 houses has been further reduced by sales to tenants, by the National Coal Board, at Cwmcarn, and especially within the General Improvement Area at Newbridge.

Very soon we will have reached saturation point, all the housing stock within the Area being owned by either the Council or owner/occupiers.

Therefore, as the aged wander down memory lane, a little of the reflected glory should be allowed to fall upon them in the evening of their lives.

When that corporate body, Abercarn Urban District Council, is buried at the end of March, 1974, it will not be relegated to a paupers' grave, but will, with full honours, have a golden place in the archives of the Monmouthshire County Council.

*" I never found a companion
That was so companionable as solitude."*

Thoreau.

NUMBER OF CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED DURING THE PAST FOUR YEARS

			1969	1970	1971	1972
Scarlet Fever	...	...	1	—	—	2
Dysentery	...	...	14	—	2	—
Diphtheria	...	...	—	—	—	—
Cerebral Spinal Fever	...		—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	...	...	—	—	—	—
Poliomyelitis	...	...	—	—	—	—
Meningitis	...	...	1	—	1	—
Tuberculosis	...	...	5	6	1	2
Whooping Cough	...	...	—	—	—	—
Erysipelas	...	...	—	—	—	—
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	...		—	—	—	—
Puerperal Pyrexia	...	...	—	—	—	—
Food Poisoning	...	...	150	58	48	7
Paratyphoid Fever	...		—	—	—	—
Measles	...	...	64	235	35	9
Infective Hepatitis	...		6	22	5	2
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
			241	231	93	22
			<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

CENSUS FIGURES AND NURSERY SCHOOLS

It is of interest to note that we have only one nursery school in the Urban Area at the present time, one small nursery school built very many years ago at Crown Street, Crumlin.

Surely, in this world of rapid change, now is the time to make a plea for more such schools to be provided. Undoubtedly, there is an untapped reservoir of female labour trapped at home until their children, the underfives, come of age and go to primary schools.

I am sure that all such nursery schools provided would be over-subscribed. Their upkeep could be borne out of weekly charges, which could easily be found by the parents, enabling the mother to escape from the deadly boredom of the kitchen sink, enabling her to earn money to raise the standard at home at a time when inflation cannot be kept in check by the best laid plans of mice or men.

The present viewpoint held is that an extension of nursery education is "a recipe for disaster". Surely, within our Urban Area, where we have 1,440 children, almost equally divided into boys and girls, there is a social need for these schools.

The argument is indefensible in my opinion. Why delay, with a big expansion of factories, already in production, expected. The demand for female labour can only grow, more ladies are wanted in the canteens, offices, and even on the factory floor.

I have no doubt that the future could be especially bright, if only more nursery schools were provided.

INFANT WELFARE CENTRES ATTENDANCES

Attendances at the Infant Welfare Centres for the year 1972 are set in the following table for your information :

BORN FROM 1967-71

Centre			1st Visit	Revisit	Total
Cwmcarn	...	...	136	644	780
Abercarn	...	...	161	625	786
Pantside	...	...	142	465	607
Newbridge	...	...	360	1,335	1,695
Trinant	...	...	177	892	1,069
			976	3,961	4,937

BORN DURING 1972

Centre			1st visit	Revisit	Total
Cwmcarn	...	...	24	357	381
Abercarn	...	...	39	284	323
Pantside	...	...	46	347	393
Newbridge	...	...	96	666	762
Trinant	...	...	38	717	755
			243	2,371	2,614

Attendances at the Cwmcarn Centre	...	...	381
Attendances at the Abercarn Centre	...	...	323
Attendances at the Pantside Centre	...	...	393
Attendances at the Newbridge Centre	...	...	762
Attendances at the Trinant Centre	...	...	755
Total Attendances for the year 1972	...	...	2,614

FOOD POISONING AND FOOD HYGIENE

For some considerable time I have not been entirely happy about the standard of hygiene in the shops and public houses throughout the Urban Area.

The standard is a low one, bringing in its wake the possibility of food poisoning, resulting in extra work and anxiety to my already hard-pressed staff in the Public Health Department.

I am aware that generally the standard of shops within the Urban Area has slipped somewhat from that prevailing in the years 1964 and 1965, which was achieved as the result of the evolution of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act.

The aforementioned regulations, together with the Food Hygiene Regulations of 1956 and 1970, the Shops Act, 1950 and the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, gave local authorities ample powers for raising the standard in shops and public houses to such a level that food poisoning should be the least of our worries.

I would like to assure the public that we do worry about their well being. Illness and therefore loss of work can be a considerable economic setback. With little or no income, it does not require much imagination to see that a family can fall into arrears with rent and other accounts and become seriously financially embarrassed.

A common cause of food poisoning is the consumption of pies and pasties which are consistently being warmed up, allowed to cool, then reheated.

I have noticed that in the public houses, inns and clubs throughout the Urban Area a heating unit is placed on the counter and filled with pasties, pies and sausage rolls. If any are left unconsumed at the end of the night, the temptation is great to place the commodities in a refrigerator during the day and reheat them the next night.

Obviously, the reheating of these commodities is highly dangerous, as there is a very real risk of the purchaser getting food poisoning.

REMUNERATION:

*" O! that's a latin word
for three farthings."*

SUMMARY OF TUBERCULOSIS CASES

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Total
	M.	F.	M.	F.	
Total cases on Register	44	67	3	6	120
31.12.72	44	67	3	6	120
New cases 1972 ...	1	1	—	—	2
Deaths	—	—	—	—	—
Recovered	1	—	—	—	1
Removed for other reasons	—	—	—	—	—
Removed from District	—	—	—	—	—
Total cases on Register	44	67	3	6	120
31.12.72	44	67	3	6	120

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING OUT-BREAKS IN THE AREA OF THE ABERCARN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1st JANUARY TO 31st DECEMBER, 1972

In accordance with the Circular 46/49 (Wales) dated 24th May, 1949, Returns as per Memo 188/Med. (Appendix I) are submitted herewith.

ANNUAL RETURN OF FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATIONS

Local Authority Abercarn Urban District Council, year 1st January, 1972 to 31st December, 1972.

(2nd) FOOD POISONING NOTIFICATION CORRECTED RETURN TO R.G.

1st Qtr.	2nd Qtr.	3rd Qtr.	4th Qtr.	Total
Nil	7	Nil	Nil	7

(3rd) OUTBREAKS DUE TO IDENTIFIED AGENTS.

Total Outbreaks ... Nil Total Cases ... Nil

(3rd A) OUTBREAKS DUE TO SALMONELLA ORGANISMS ... Nil

(4th) OUTBREAKS OF UNDISCOVERED CAUSE.

Total Outbreaks ... 7 Total Cases ... 7

(5th) OUTBREAKS.

Single Cases ...	...	...	...	7
Agent Identified ...	...	...	...	—
Unknown Cases ...	...	...	...	7

BETTER HALF :

" Lady you are the cruelest she alive."

Twelfth Night.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE HEALTH SERVICE

Medical Officer of Health :

Dr. K. E. Howells, M.B., B.S. (London), M.F.C.M.,
D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Officer :

Lloyd G. Hale, F.R.S.H.

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE SERVICES

These are maintained by the County Council at Cwmcarn, Abercarn, Panside, Newbridge and Trinant.

ISOLATION HOSPITALS

There are no Isolation Hospitals in the Council's Area, but arrangements have been made for Infectious Diseases cases to be admitted to the Allt-yr-yn Hospital, Newport.

IMMUNISATION AGAINST DIPHTHERIA

It is now the duty of the County Council to administer this service. This duty is performed by their Area Medical Officers.

AMBULANCE SERVICE

Under the provision of the National Health Service Act, 1946, the County Council now administer the Ambulance Service.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF PATHOLOGICAL SPECIMENS

Samples of Milk, Ice-Cream, Water and samples from the Council's Swimming Baths were submitted to the Laboratory at Clytha Square, Newport, for examination during the year.

WATER SUPPLIES

The Council is a constituent Authority of the Gwent Water Board. The chief supply is obtained from Grwyne-Fawr Reservoir situated in the Black Mountains, Breconshire, and from the Llandegvedd Reservoir, subsidiary supplies are obtained from local sources. The water is of good quality and large supplementary quantities were obtained from the Llanover Scheme. The water is sampled by the Board, and from time to time by the Local Authority (who submitted samples for bacteriological examination). Where necessary the supplies were chlorinated by the Board's Officials.

GRATITUDE :

*" How sharper than a serpent's tooth it is
To have a thankless child."*

Lear.

Number of houses with piped supply	...	6,404
Number of houses supplied from wells and springs (estimated)	... ..	10
Approximate population supplied from Public Water Mains, direct to house	...	18,380

During the year inspections were made of water supplies and systems generally, where the pressure was reported to be low. Upon inspection it was found that in almost all cases the corrosion of pipes was responsible for inadequate supplies for all domestic purposes. In such cases, Informal Notices, and where necessary Statutory Notices, under Section 138 of the Public Health Act, 1936, were served with complete success.

SEWERS AND DRAINS

The Council is a constituent Member of the Western Valley Sewerage Board. The Council's subsidiary sewers are connected to the Main Trunk Sewer.

SCAVENGING

Scavenging is carried out by direct labour with a twice weekly collection, the tip being situated at Hafodyrynys.

REFUSE DISPOSAL

Regular inspections in connection with Rodent Control and Fly Breeding have been carried out, and extensive treatments for the elimination of rodents and flies are continually being undertaken.

BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF WATER SUPPLIES, MILK AND ICE-CREAM

A total of 144 samples were submitted for bacteriological examination during the year, 10 milk, 122 water, and 12 ice-cream.

The milk samples were purchased off vendors in the course of delivery to the consumers, at school canteens and factory canteens.

The water samples were taken from landsprings, such as are at the Colliery Road, Cwmcarn, and near Pennar Villa, New Bethel, the Council's swimming baths and certain supply taps in factories and schools in the Area. All samples submitted proved to be satisfactory.

POT-POURRI

PRESCRIPTION CHARGES

I am sure members of the Committee will learn, with interest, the number of chargeable prescriptions set against exempted prescriptions.

Chargeable Prescriptions (Millions)		Exempted Prescriptions (Millions)
1970	115	133
1971	106	141
1972	106	150

FAMILY PLANNING

It is of extreme interest to learn that the Minister of Health has had second thoughts on who is to issue condoms and it would seem that family planning will be integrated in the new Area Health Authorities, of which there will be three in Gwent.

The arrangements for collecting the prescription charges in Family Planning Clinics will be left to the Staff. And if clinic staff refuse, the Area Health Authorities must consider each case on its merit, and act accordingly.

SICKNESS — DAYS LOST

It is of great interest to observe the following working days lost in the year 1970/71 (one complete year) the number of days lost, being 314 million, were only countable because of National Health claims. Obviously, the total of days lost was really much bigger than this astronomical number.

HOBBY HORSES

Very many people have different bodies, charities, or organisations, where they give, quite voluntarily, a large part of their lives, in terms of time, to such bodies. It is of interest to see set out the amounts of grant received from the Department of Health and Social Security, to enable these below mentioned bodies funds to enable them, in part, to carry on their work.

	1971-72	1972-73
Alcoholism and drug addiction ...	22,000	116,164
Homeless and socially handicapped	1,250	26,725
Physically handicapped	102,207	153,306
Mentally Handicapped	41,000	56,815
Elderly	35,875	58,500
Child care	12,250	53,018
Family planning	31,987	103,238
Smoking	19,000	6,000
Community health	135,250	166,100
Miscellaneous	11,000	17,125

HEALTH CENTRES

It is of interest to learn that a further 83 health centres were opened in 1971, a further 94 in 1972, and over 100 in 1973, while in the year 1973/74 it is hoped that 115 will be built.

RAINFALL

The table shows the monthly rainfall, also the day of the month when the greatest fall occurred.

Month	Total Inches of Rainfall	Greatest fall in 24 hrs. Day	Inches	No. of days of Recorded Rainfall
January ...	6.48	11	1.02	16
February ...	6.84	15	2.10	19
March ...	6.23	31	1.32	13
April ...	4.43	7	0.61	13
May ...	4.95	9 & 11	0.52	15
June ...	4.52	20	0.54	14
July ...	0.69	25	0.23	5
August ...	1.12	8	0.54	5
September ...	2.12	9	1.00	5
October ...	3.18	10	1.28	6
November ...	5.42	13	1.43	13
December ...	10.48	2	1.34	23
Total ...	56.46			147

Rainfall is recorded at Abercarn Cemetery.

Height above Sea Level: 539.9 feet.

*" If solid happiness we prize,
Within our breast this jewel lies :
And they are fools who roam,
The world has nothing to bestow;
From our own selves our joys must flow,
And that dear hut — our home."*

*" The Fireside ",
Cotton.*

HOUSING

Gentlemen, we have arrived, after eighty years of trial and error, to consider this, the last Annual Report of Abercarn Urban District Council. We are to be absorbed into the District of Islwyn, as the cone authority, the biggest of the four urban areas which will form the amalgam.

Undoubtedly, not only are we the biggest authority, but also the best, easily surpassing the other three in the total amount of money loaned out to individuals, enabling them to become proud owner/occupiers for the first time. This activity has been unremitting in the last twenty years, until, today, the Council own, together with owner/occupiers, 86% of all the houses in the Area, truly a marvellous piece of socialism. This percentage has increased, and is now much nearer the coveted 100%, the figure of 86% being that of April 1971. Since that time the Council has arranged mortgage facilities for 37 people in the Newbridge General Improvement Area alone.

We have worked like men inspired in the last few years, ably supported by the Councillors, possessing an unsurpassed team spirit, enabling the staff to transform the conditions within the Urban Area.

We have built a little over 2,000 housing units, of all shapes and sizes, ranging from accommodation for senior citizens to four bedroomed houses, and, as satisfactory as this effort may be, we cannot but end by putting forward the idea that we have failed, certainly in part, in particular in our slowness in developing the Arcon site at Pentwynmawr, and that Abercarn eyesore, the Ranks. Gentlemen, it is easy to criticise in hind sight.

We failed because we lacked conviction. If we had built some thirteen years ago we could have provided three housing units for the price of one today.

May I recall two incidents that occurred at that time in regard to the Arcon Site and the Ranks Site. A visit was made to Mountain Ash, where similiar two bedroomed bungalows had been built, the rent being £2.12½ per week. The tenants were absolutely satisfied, and the full Council, reporting back, expressed complete satisfaction, with only one dissenting voice.

The contemplated redevelopment of the Arcon Site was abandoned, the bungalows slowly becoming an embarrassment, and an increasing financial burden to the Council. This, together with increasing inflation, almost makes the cost of redevelopment, at today's prices, an impossibility.

Members will remember the second incident. A story appeared in the local evening paper at that time that the Ranks were to be pulled down. The tenants laid seige to the building we were using at that time, while the Council chamber was being modernised, extracting a promise that the story in the paper was a fairy story. We failed, Gentlemen, that evening, through lack of conviction. We are now faced with unheard of costs per housing unit, which will for years be felt by our predecessors in title.

Is it not a pity, with this experience gained, that we cannot, in retrospect, "call back yesterday, bid time return"

It would seem that economically we are unable to build, to put life back into a moribund village, to attract new families, bringing with them the continual noise of children at play. Are we, ultimately, to see this Site at the Ranks used as a car park? It is to be hoped that a reasonable compromise will be found, in order to enable this Site to be redeveloped.

REDEVELOPMENT

The year was undoubtedly one of extreme frustration, at failure to attract contractors to redevelop the Ranks, Abercarn, and Arcon Site, Pentwynmawr. Very many prices were placed before the Housing Committee, for their consideration and approval; prices like £277,000 for 41 housing units, at the Ranks, and a similar sum for a like number of housing units at the Arcon Site.

If the Committee agreed that £750,000, including land costs and fees, for 201 housing units at the top of the Pant Estate, was costly, the present figures for both the Ranks and Arcon Sites mean that if the same ratio of housing units were built, the sum would be £1,385,000. This is so ridiculous that

the figure does not bear careful examination. Roaring inflation makes the business of tendering a very hazardous affair. Contractors, in taking into account all the factors, perhaps tend to overprice, in order to safeguard themselves. Perhaps the figure of £98,000 for 12 small housing units, adjacent to Tir-y-pwll Bungalows, spot-lighted once and for all that there was no slowing down in these tremendously inflated figures.

In a year's time the name "Abercarn Urban District Council" will be of archives use only, and a thing of the past. We ought to take our housing experience with us to our new Council of Islwyn, setting up our own Housing Department, of sufficient size to build a dozen housing units here, and a small infill there. By careful management, cutting out the profit element, employing direct labour, these schemes could be drawn up by our own experts, labour paid at national level, and rates of bonus worked out by the Chief Works Study Officer. This offers a challenge that no ambitious officer could refuse, offering houses built by our own men, low-cost, permanent housing units, at a much lower rent than the most sanguine of us could ever hope to envisage.

Now is the time to start, immediately the Council of Islwyn becomes an entity. The Council will be aware that they, as a Housing Committee, will always be competing against the building contractor, whose prices are, in:—

Sussex (3 bedroomed house)	£13,150
Cambridge, from	£14,250
Crawley, from	£15,250
Isle of Wight, from	£16,500

No wonder building contractors are hard to find!

Additionally, tradesmen by the thousands have branched out, formed groups together, and gone into housing improvement grants in a very big way. These small firms grossed between them last year £177,000,000 alone of Government money. This figure does not take into account the share that the applicant pays, a minimum contribution would be a further £44,250,000, in addition to the above mentioned figure. I believe, to use the vernacular, that this is termed "making hay while the sun shines".

HOUSE IMPROVEMENTS

Gentlemen, you seem almost to be losing interest. Perhaps Abercarn Urban District Council is slowly dying, having lived for eighty years. In its moribund state, before rigor mortis sets in, let us all give one more concentrated heave, one more concentrated effort, and see, resolve, that the environmental conditions within the four declared Improvement Areas are finalised before we become part of "Islwyn".

It is almost impossible to review last year's work, it seems impossible that we dealt with such a vast number of applications, each house being inspected in such a detailed way that it is unbelievable.

At long, long last we can see the slowing down in the number of applications. Careful examination of the Census figures for 1971 suggests that we have nearly reached 100%, having regard to houses with the following:

1. constant hot water supply;
2. indoor toilet;
3. exclusive use of a fixed bath or shower.

How standards change, today, an indoor toilet is a must. The Committee will remember that the power to have an indoor toilet insisted upon was given in the Housing Act, 1964, yet it was recommended by a Housing Advisory Sub-Committee to the Minister in 1919.

We all remember the absent minded, retired professor. No, we can't, dare not, remember his name! going on a long, long route march down the garden to the external toilet, obviously without a flush. The poor fella forgot, being absent minded, with dire results. Now, if he had had an indoor toilet such an accident would never have happened.

The statistics below speak for themselves, let us all, together, make one more great effort, to grade and tarmac back lanes, tidy up all eyesores, plant shrubs and flowers, point walls and leave this little Eden of ours, this miniature Wye Valley, this demi-paradise, the envy of Gwent.

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE

It is of extreme interest to learn that the Census figures of April, 1971, showed that at that time there were 6,050 households in the Urban Area, housing 18,450. 89.6% of the households had a constant supply of hot water, while a further 65 persons, or 1.1% of the population, shared this facility.

Perhaps what was most gratifying was the number of persons enjoying the facility of a fixed bath or shower, 5,045 households, or 83.4% of the population, while a further 60, 1.0%, shared this facility.

Thus, although the Council has made great efforts since these figures were prepared, the figures show that 9.3% of the population were without hot water, and some 16% without a fixed bath or shower.

There are, however, certain percentages which we have improved, by all working as a team. The Committees will know of the avalanche of applications for Improvement Grants received since April 1971. Gentlemen, we have almost reached saturation point. For instance, 2.1%, or 125 households, had no flush to the toilet, in 1971, although 70% of the households had exclusive use of hot water, a fixed bath or shower, and an indoor toilet, this figure is much higher today, by reason of the huge number of applications dealt with during the last two years.

It has been conservatively estimated that the Council has spent or earmarked between $1\frac{1}{3}$ and $1\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds on Improvement Grants.

Another statistical fact of interest is that the Council, together with private owner/occupiers, owned 5,275 houses, out of a total of 6,050, in April 1971. Obviously, we have built more houses since that time, at Pentwynmawr, Cwmcarn and Trinant, with private housing units also having been completed since 1971. What, however, pleases the writer is that since that time very many National Coal Board houses have been purchased, by the tenants in particular, so that the aim of 100% ownership of houses, by the Council and owner/occupiers, is almost a fact. A magnificent piece of socialism.

Since the publication of the Census figures of 1971, 37 houses have been purchased by National Coal Board tenants, within the General Improvement Area of Newbridge.

One further exciting statistic, given to me by the Chief Financial Officer, is that the Council at present has a little over one million pounds out on loan to owner/occupiers.

The following figures are set down for your information. The totals are unbelievably large and almost seem to be typing errors. However, all members will be aware that some of this work was done at the week-ends, through the inability of applicants to be available at home during office hours.

Applications dealt with during the year totalled 590, requiring over 700 visits by the Department. In very many cases the Department arranged architects to draw plans and produce specifications, and the services of "Rentokil" were sought from time to time. Advice was given as to the availability of builders. All the responsibility was taken on by the Department, in its intense desire to help applicants, in any or every possible way.

*"I charge thee, fling away ambition,
By that sin fell the angels."*

Cromwell.

The following complaints were received during the year and remedied, these are set out for your information:

EXTERIOR	1972
Chimney stacks repaired or rebuilt	66
Chimney stacks sealed off	158
Roofs repaired or renewed	518
Rainwater pipes and eaves gutters renewed or repaired	487
Walls—rebuilt or repaired or repointed	144
rendered for prevention of dampness	290
external rendering repaired	213
damp proof courses inserted	193
Outbuildings repaired	—
Obstructive outbuildings demolished	88
Yards, passages, etc., paved or repaired	279
INTERIOR	
Doors and frames renewed or repaired	687
Floors renewed or repaired	680
Floors ventilated	329
Grates taken out, apertures sealed up	293
Grates renewed or repaired	112
Internal plastering (walls) repaired or renewed	497
Internal plastering (ceilings) repaired or renewed	314
Staircases repaired or renewed	190
Windows and frames renewed or repaired	2004
Window cords renewed	66

DRAINAGE

New drains constructed	...	...	...	...	417
Drains cleansed	...	...	...	...	234
Drains reconstructed	...	...	...	...	242
Drains repaired	...	...	...	...	215
Gullies fixed	...	...	...	...	242
Inspection chambers provided or repaired	...				314
Lavatory basins or bath waste pipes trapped or repaired	...	...	...	...	112
Soil pipes or ventilation shafts fixed or repaired					110
Waste water sinks trapped or waste pipes repaired					242

WATER CLOSETS

Water closet buildings repaired	...	...	...	52
Seats, doors renewed or repaired	...	...	...	84
Water closets reconstructed	...	...	...	19
New W.C. pans and traps fixed	...	...	...	74
Flushing apparatus provided	...	...	...	93
Flushing apparatus repaired	...	...	...	87

MISCELLANEOUS REPAIRS AND NUISANCES ABATED

Storage accommodation provided or improved	...	...	...	124
Water supply provided or renewed	...	...	...	55
Water taps or pipes repaired	...	...	...	14
Fasciaboards renewed or repaired	...	...	...	299
Skirting boards renewed or repaired	...	...	...	386
Waste water sinks provided	...	...	...	244
Joints raked out and repointed	...	...	...	122
Power points fitted in bedrooms	...	...	...	552
Electrical rewiring carried out	185
Other repairs and nuisances abated	443

Total	12,569
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HOUSING

Number of dwelling houses inspected	1,553
Re-inspected	711
Number of premises at which repairs and improvements have been carried out ...	689
Warning Notices	322
Remedied without Notice	819
Statutory Notices served	372
Statutory Notices complied with	358
Statutory Notices not complied with	14
Number of houses in the Area	6,414
Number of dwelling houses erected during the year by the Council	—
Number of new houses erected privately in the year 1972	6

DRAINAGE

Drainage stoppages dealt with, new drainage connections, improvements and repairs ...	214
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The following statement is in the form prescribed by the Ministry :

1. Inspection of dwelling houses during the year :—
 - (1) (a) Total number of dwelling houses inspected during the year for housing defects (under Public Health and Housing Acts) 1,553
 - (b) Number of inspections made for the purpose 1,714
 - (2) (a) Demolition Orders made 6
 - (b) Closing Orders made 3
 - (3) Undertakings accepted not to re-let for human habitation 3
 - (4) Closing Orders revoked after premises have been made fit 2
2. Remedying of Defects during the year without Service of Formal Notices :

Number of dwelling houses rendered fit for occupation in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers ...	334
--	-----

3. (a) Proceedings under Section 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1957	...	...	...	...	---
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repair					590
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit after service of Formal Notice:					
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	580
(b) By Local Authority in default of owners	...	...	...	...	---
Number of houses under Circular 2854	...				—
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts:—					
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Notices were served requiring repair	...	...	...	...	103
(2) Number of dwelling houses which were rendered fit:					
(a) By owners	...	...	...	...	103
(b) By Local Authority in Default of owners	...	...	...	...	---
(c) Proceedings under Section 16 and 17 of the Housing Act, 1957:—					
(1) Number of dwelling houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	...				8
(2) Number of dwelling houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders	...				12
(d) Proceedings under Section 18 of the Housing Act, 1957:—					
(1) Number of separate tenements or under ground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenements or rooms having been rendered fit	...	...			—

*“ When we are born, we cry that we are come
To this great stage of fools.”*

Lear.

4. Housing Act, 1957—Part IV. Overcrowding.

(a) (1) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year	... ..	18
(2) Number of families dwelling therein	...	21
(3) Number of persons dwelling therein	...	78
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year	... ..	2

5. Housing Act, 1957—Clearance Areas.

(a) Clearance Areas made during the year	...	1
(b) Number of houses involved in Clearance Areas		4

*" It takes two to speak the truth,
One to speak, the other to hear."*

Thoreau

Through Rose Coloured Glasses.

I despair of the title Public Health Inspector, will people ever learn that Sanitary Inspectors no longer exist?

Shakespeare said, what's in a name,

*" Call a rose by any other name,
'Twould smell as sweet "*.

The rose, Public Health Inspector, certainly smells sweeter than Sanitary Inspector.

Even in the year 1973, and possibly in the year 2525, members of the public still think that the department is responsible only for killing rodents, flies and wasps, the giving of free disinfectant, and the rodding of stopped drains.

Modesty prevents the department from shouting a loud " no " ! Let us have then a whimper of a " no " ! and say that this is not so.

How many people realise that it is he and his staff, who are responsible for getting repairs done to rented houses. It is he, who condemns all old houses, or closes houses, as unfit for human habitation. It is he, who inspects all the poultry you eat, together with all the meat, detecting and condemning all unfit food, and all unsound tins of food.

It is the Public Health Inspector who is responsible for the removal of perhaps one of the greatest social evils in modern times. The smogs stacked up over the larger conurbations and big cities. Here, in Wales, snuggling between two mountains, hidden away from the severe blast of icy winter winds, the air is like wine. Perhaps that is why one sees little or no drunkenness in this little paradise, the inhabitants are drunk on the wine of air, acclimatised, as it were, to the pitiless rain, and the heady wine of almost pure air.

Again, it is the " new rose " that is responsible, in part. for the purity of the milk and water you drink, it is he who sees to the bacteriological purity of such commodities.

He has responsibilities in factories, in regard to overcrowding, lighting, temperature, and suitable and sufficient sanitary conveniences.

The Public Health Inspector is responsible for the implementation of the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises

LOST CAUSE :

*“ As if you could kill time,
Without injuring eternity.”*

Act, 1963. Most certainly, this Act has brought real benefits to employees in offices and shops locally.

The head of the department is the Medical Officer of Health, all the staff employed in the department working under his control. The Chief, or senior, Public Health Inspector is directly answerable to the Medical Officer and to the Council, for the preparation of all reports submitted to the Council, for their consideration.

Information for these reports is obtained from knowledge gained by constant inspections, of all types, special enquiries, and close liaison with all other departments. A well run and efficient Public Health Department not only has the friendliest of relationship with heads of other departments, but, most important, the Councillors, especially the Public Health Committee, with which the department is more closely associated than any other committee.

Last, but not least, the department, must, and certainly does, try to maintain the friendliest possible relationship with all members of the general public.

Without dove-tailing together, and maintaining such relationships, the work done in the department, on behalf of the Council, for the benefit of the public, would obviously suffer.

Below is a list of duties which the department is responsible for :

1. Clean Air Act, 1956;
2. Diseases of Animals Act, 1950;
3. Factories Acts;
4. Food and Drugs Act, 1955;
5. Housing Acts;
6. Pet Animals Act, 1951;
7. Public Health Acts;
8. Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949;
9. Pests Act, 1954;
10. Rag, Flock and other Filling Materials Act, 1951;
11. Shops Act, 1950;
12. Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958;
13. Slaughterhouses Act, 1954;
14. Water Act, 1945.

AMALGAMIST :

*"When in disgrace with fortune and men's eyes
I all alone beweepe my outcast state,
And trouble deaf heaven with my bootless cries,
And look upon myself and curse my fate."*

Sonnet.

MEAT INSPECTORS—THE FORGOTTEN BREED?

The Sunday joint, whether it be pork, lamb or beef, is one of the great British institutions, as much a part of British life as Coronation Street and Ted Heath. However much the cost rises, and it certainly does, from Sunday to Sunday the joint is a necessity. But how much thought do we give to the purity of our meats, not so much from a bacteriological point of view but more from the biological angle.

There are a forgotten breed of men, taken for granted, very few people even know they exist, who inspect all meat, as it is killed and dressed at the slaughterhouse, often working in sub-zero temperatures at unearthly hours. This inspection is not merely superficial but a detailed post mortem examination, inspecting every organ and gland, as it is removed from the carcase. It is their job to ensure that the meat which reaches the butcher's shop is fit to eat. These men are Public Health Inspectors or qualified meat inspectors working under their control who have specialised in this field.

But what conditions can affect our meat? The answer is very many, conditions such as tuberculosis, swine fever, anthrax or conditions such as the tongue twister oesophagostomum columbianum, all these and many more. Each carcase and organ is examined in detail and the typical symptoms searched for in each case.

Parasites in many shapes and sizes also affect the food animals, a small cyst, about the size of a grain of wheat in the muscle of an ox may grow into a twenty inch tape worm in the intestine of a human who has eaten the meat without cooking it sufficiently to kill the cyst. Rare steaks are very tasty but the meat content may be a little higher than one expected!

The job of the meat inspector, it may be said, is to break the chain of infection and this he does very well, in fact, the success of this operation is one of the success stories of our time, a statement borne out by statistics, tuberculosis, once rife, is little heard of nowadays, parasitic conditions are becoming rarer, and many other diseases are fast becoming rarities.

The Public Health Inspector must take at least some of the credit for these improvements in statistics, therefore, when next you eat your Sunday joint give at least a little thought to the technical expertise that helps make it fit for consumption.

MEAT AND OTHER FOODS

A large quantity of tinned and other foods was inspected during the year. The following articles were condemned as being unfit for human consumption : —

185½ lb. cooked ham;	57 apricot turnovers;
30 lb. luncheon meat;	5 strawberry flans;
108½ lb. corned beef;	33 sponges;
6 lb tongue;	17 lb. butter;
42 lb. lamb;	16½ lb. cheese;
10 lb. frozen lambs' livers;	8 lb. haddock;
42 lb. beef;	28 packets fish fingers;
42 tins corned beef;	12 packets kipper fillets;
139 tins luncheon meat;	7 packets plaice;
18 tins cooked ham;	7 packets cod;
6 tins chopped ham;	6 packets potato fritters;
73 tins stewed steak;	40 chickens;
50 tins minced beef;	1 sliced leg of lamb;
5 tins soup;	16 sausage rolls;
119 tins beans;	3 tins cream;
111 tins peas;	43 tins milk;
176 tins tomatoes;	2 tins creamed rice;
4 tins broad beans;	29 tins pineapple;
6 tins carrots;	13 tins plums;
7 tins butter beans;	15 tins oranges;
9 lb peas;	12 tins pears;
24 lb. french beans;	28 tins peaches;
8 lb. brussel sprouts;	5 tins rhubarb;
12 lb. broad beans;	8 tins strawberries;
2 chicken pies;	½ gallon ice-cream
8 minced beef pies;	70 blocks ice-cream;
5 steak and kidney pies;	7 trifles;
3 trays macaroni cheese;	14 mousse;
2 trays boiled beef and	43 bars chocolate;
carrots;	3 bottles sauce.
1 jam tart;	

In addition to the above many items were condemned during the year as the result of refrigeration breakdowns in shops and canteens throughout the area, but these commodities are too numerous to list individually, particularly in the case of factory canteens.

TABLE A. REGISTRATIONS AND GENERAL INSPECTIONS.

(1) Class of Premises.	(2) Number of premises registered during the year.	(3) Total number of registered premises at end of year.	(4) Number of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year.
Offices	2	50	31
Retail Shops	4	104	88
Wholesale departments, warehouses	—	25	20
Catering establishments open to the Public, canteens	—	8	8
Fuel Storage depots	1	2	2

TABLE B. NUMBER OF VISITS OF ALL KINDS BY INSPECTOR TO REGISTERED PREMISES.

MUM'S THE WORD:

*" For I have neither wit, nor words, nor worth,
Action, nor utterance, nor power of speech,
To stir men's blood, I only speak right on."*

Julius Caesar.

TABLE C. ANALYSIS OF PERSONS EMPLOYED IN REGISTERED PREMISES BY WORKPLACE

Class of Workplace (1)	Number of persons employed. (2)
Offices	318
Retail shops	304
Wholesale departments, warehouses	63
Catering establishments open to the public	60
Canteens	—
Fuel Storage depots	2
Total	747
Total Males	360
Total Females	387

TABLE D. EXEMPTIONS

M/c Line No.	Class of Workplace. (1)	No. of exemptions current at 31st Dec. (2)	No. of exemptions granted or extended during year (3)	No. of applications refused or exemptions withdrawn during year (4)	No. of Cases in Cols. 3 and 4 where employees opposed application. (5)	Appeals to Court against refusal to grant or extend an exemption or against the withdrawal of an exemption.	
						No. made (6)	No. allowed (7)
PART I. SPACE (SEC. 5 (2)).							
1. Offices	—	—	—	—	—	—
2. Retail Shops	—	7	7	—	—	—
3. Wholesale shops, warehouses		—	—	—	—	—	—
4. Catering establishments open to public, canteens	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
5. Fuel storage depots	—	—	—	—	—	—
PART II. TEMPERATURE (SEC. 6).							
11. Offices	—	—	—	—	—	—
12. Retail Shops	—	—	—	—	—	—
13. Wholesale shops, warehouses		—	—	—	—	—	—
14. Catering establishments open to public, canteens	...	—	—	—	—	—	—
15. Fuel storage depots	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE D. EXEMPTIONS (CONTINUED).

PART III. SANITARY CONVENIENCES (SEC. 9.)

M/c Line No.	Class of Workplace (1)	No. of exemptions current at 31st Dec. (2)	No. of exemptions granted or extended during year. (3)	No. of applications refused or exemptions withdrawn during year. (4)	No. of Cases in Cols. 3 and 4 where employees opposed application. (5)	Appeals to Court against refusal to grant or extend an exemption or against the withdrawal of an exemption.	
						No. made (6)	No. allowed (7)
21.	Offices	—	—	—	—	—	—
22.	Retail Shops	—	4	4	—	—	—
23.	Wholesale shops, warehouses	—	—	—	—	—	—
24.	Catering establishments open to public, canteens ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
25.	Fuel storage depots ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

PART IV. WASHING FACILITIES (SEC. 10.)

31.	Offices	—	—	—	—	—	—
32.	Retail Shops	—	4	4	—	—	—
33.	Wholesale shops, warehouses	—	—	—	—	—	—
34.	Catering establishments open to public, canteens ...	—	—	—	—	—	—
35.	Fuel storage depots ...	—	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE E. PROSECUTIONS

PROSECUTIONS INSTITUTED OF WHICH THE HEARING WAS
COMPLETED IN THE YEAR

Section of Act or title of Regulation or Order.	No. of persons or companies prosecuted.	No. of informations laid.	No. of informations leading to a conviction.
NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL

No. of complaints (or summary applications) made under Section 22 ...	...	...	Nil
No. of interim orders granted	...	...	Nil

FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PRESCRIBED PARTICULARS ON THE ADMINISTRATION OF THE FACTORIES ACT, 1961

PART I OF THE ACT

1. INSPECTIONS for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspectors).

Premises. (1)	Number on Register. (2)	Number of		
		Inspections (3)	Written Notices (4)	Occupiers prosecuted (5)
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	18	13	2	—
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	—	—	—	—
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	23	17	2	—
Total	41	30	4	—

I am sure the Committee will read, with interest, that mining is no longer the predominant industry in the urban Area, as the following figures of persons working in factories, in the Area, show.

No. working in factories

Males
812

Females
1,324

*" The noble Brutus hath told you
Caesar was ambitious,
If it were so, it was a grievous fault :
And grievously hath Caesar answered it."*

Julius Caesar.

2. Cases in which DEFECTS were found

(If defects are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more " cases ".)

Particulars (1)	Number of cases in which defects were found				Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (6)
	Found (2)	Remedied (3)	Referred		
			To H.M. Inspector (4)	By H.M. Inspector (5)	
Want of cleanliness (S.1)	4	4	—	—	—
Overcrowding (S.2) . .	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	2	2	—	—	—
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	1	1	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	—	—	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	1	1			
(a) Insufficient	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	3	3	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes			—	—	—
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out-work)	—	—	—	—	—
Total	11	11	—	—	—

PART VIII OF THE ACT OUTWORK (SECTIONS 133 AND 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133				Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1) (c). (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council. (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists. (4)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises. (5)	Notices served. (6)	Prosecutions (7)	
(1)							
Wearing apparel } Making, etc., cleaning and washing	
Household linen	
Lace, lace curtains and nets	
Curtains and furniture hangings	
Furniture and upholstery	
Electro-plate	
File making	
Brass and brass articles	
Fur pulling	
Iron and steel cables and chains	
Iron and steel and grapnels	
Cart gear	
Locks, latches and keys	
Umbrellas, etc.,	
Artificial flowers	

PART VIII OF THE ACT (CONTINUED)

OUTWORK (SECTIONS 133 AND 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133				Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1) (c). (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council. (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists. (4)	No. of instances of work in some unwhole-premises. (5)	Notices served. (6)	Prosecutions (7)	
(1)							
Nets, other than wire nets	
Tents	
Sacks	
Racquet and tennis balls	
Paper bags	
The making of boxes or other receptacles or parts thereof made wholly or partially of paper	
Brush making	
Pea picking	
Feather sorting	
Carding, etc., of buttons, etc.	

PART VIII OF THE ACT (CONTINUED)
OUTWORK (SECTIONS 133 AND 134)

Nature of Work	Section 133				Section 134		
	No. of out-workers in August list required by Section 133(1) (c). (2)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council. (3)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists. (4)	No. of instances of work in some unwholesome premises. (5)	Notices served. (6)	Prosecutions (7)	
(1)							
Stuffed toys	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	
Basket making							
Chocolates and sweetmeats							
Cosaques, Christmas stockings, etc.							
Textile weaving							
Lampshades	30						
Total	30	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949
REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1971

Type of Property	Non- Agricultural	Agricultural
1. Number of properties in District	6,802	42
2. (a) Total number of properties (including nearby premises) inspected following notification	364	5
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	195	2
(ii) Mice	61	3
3. (a) Total number of properties inspected for rats and/or mice for reasons other than notification	715	20
(b) Number infested by (i) Rats	73	2
(ii) Mice	19	2

SEWERS

4. Number of sewers infested by rats during the year ... Nil

All individual complaints during the year were dealt with, which entailed several visits by the Rodent Operator to one single reported case.

During the year very many complaints were received in connection with rats, intensified by the extraordinary works being undertaken in demolishing very old buildings and filling in the canal, thus taking away the traditional breeding places of the rats. New roads were being built, destroying old lengths of disused sewers. The dryness of the spring and autumn also played its adverse part in the breeding of the rodents.

At the moment the department has two full-time rodent operators, and the Council sewers were treated, as is usual, twice during the year, while very careful attention was paid to all school canteens, on behalf of the County Council, the Council's rubbish dump being visited regularly during the year.

“ He was despised of men ”.

Lloyd George.

This, as you will be aware, Mr. Chairman, Gentlemen, is our last Annual Report to the Council. At all times we have sought to make the same interesting and topical. If we have done this we are pleased.

We wish to thank all persons who readily gave us the figures and statistics contained therein. Last, but not least, the staff in the department should receive a big thank you, without their help and patience such a report would not be possible.

Dr. K. E. HOWELLS, M.B., B.S. (London), M.F.C.M., D.P.H.
Medical Officer of Health.

LLOYD G. HALE, F.R.S.H.

Chief Public Health Officer.

